

The Colored American

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CONVINCING EVIDENCE

FACTS SHOWING OUR MATERIAL PROGRESS.

Dr. E. W. Lampton Pictures the Depths from Whence We Came, and Finds a Hopeful Parallel in History of the Israelites—Glowing Record of the A. M. E. Church.

In discussing this question or one of similar import, this fact must be taken into consideration: Not the heights to which we hope to ascend, but the depths from whence we came. The question considered from that standpoint will show that the Negro race in America has made greater progress since, to them, came the dawn of a semblance of freedom, than has any other race of people known to the historic age.

In the year 1620 a Dutch ship landed at Jamestown, Va., with a cargo of human beings; black men stolen from their homes in Africa. These people were not brought to this country for the purpose of teaching them Christian civilization, not for the purpose of standing shoulder to shoulder with others who had been driven from their homes by the cruelties and hardships of kingly rule. They were brought here to be sold into slavery more degrading, more oppressive, more debasing than any the world has ever known. Other ship loads were brought in and the mercantile traffic of human souls continued until long after the infant republic was born and its projectors had proclaimed to the world that "all men were created free and equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

It is not necessary in the discussion of this subject to attempt to give even an epitome of the history of American slavery. Its degrading influences are but too well known and of too recent date to be ever effaced from our minds. Reference is here made to the debasing influence of slavery to show the depths from whence we came.

After two hundred and fifty years of slavery and oppression during which period we saw the innocent babe snatched from its mother's arms and hurled into eternity, simply because the mother dared to manifest a human love for her offspring; we saw the husband and the wife torn assunder by the merciless hand of the Slave-trader, we saw all semblance of home and family, of human love and sympathy obliterated by the horrible conditions by which we were surrounded; after two hundred and fifty years, during which there were tears shed so bitter that each drop seemed like so much life-blood drawn from the heart; after two hundred and fifty years of misery, pain and despair, mutual prayers to Heaven;

MEN OF THE HOUR.



PROF. J. M. HENRY JONES, A. M.

side of The West Virginia Colored Institute. Author, Orator Educator, Successful Member of Affairs and First Fraternal Delegate to England. He is Put Forward by His Friends as a candidate for Grand Master of the G. U. O. of O. F.

en; the angel of deliverance came and proclaimed "freedom." What was our condition then?

We had nominal freedom without any of the necessary conditions to enjoy it. We did not possess one foot of land in all this broad expanse. Even the scant clothing we wore belonged to those who had but recently owned our bodies. Like the "Man of Sorrows" we had no place to lay our heads. Such were the depths from which we came.

But despite of seemingly helpless and hopeless circumstances we did not sit on the banks and weep, but went bravely and manfully to work, often making our "bricks without straw," with the results as you see them today. What are these results? Hear the answers.

According to the census of 1890 the illiteracy among our people has been reduced 45 per cent. during the past two decades; we had written and published nearly five hundred books; we had more than three hundred newspapers, three of which were issued daily; there were practicing before the various courts of the several states and the

District of Columbia more than two thousand lawyers, and there were in actual practice an equal number of physicians; we had accumulated over twelve millions of dollars worth of school property; there were one hundred and fifty thousand farms and homes, valued at about seven hundred and fifty million dollars; and personal property valued at one hundred and sixty-five million dollars, making a total of nine hundred and sixty-seven million dollars. This wealth, if equally distributed, would give to each colored man, woman and child in the United States seventy-five dollars. But this is not all. During the same period we had raised over ten millions for educational purposes alone and had thirty-two thousand teachers in the schools throughout the country. We are successfully operating several banking institutions, and we are engaged in other lines of business and trade which includes one silk mill and one cotton factory. In all these various pursuits, we are meeting with re-

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NORMAL AT HAMPTON

DR. W. B. EVANS IN CHARGE OF 455 TEACHERS

Renewed Energy in the Cause of Practical Education—Praise for Major Moton and Capt. Washington—Sensible Attitude on Local Supervisanship.

Dr. W. Bruce Evans has returned to town, looking none the worse for wear after his tremendous siege of getting ready for his summer normal work at Hampton Institute, and the strain of carrying its many departments to a successful conclusion, together with the innumerable details of the annual Negro conference. Dr. Evans conducted these enterprises without a flaw, and he is loud in his praise of the accomplished ladies and gentlemen who gave him such steadfast and loyal support. He says no manager could have been surrounded by a finer aggregation of cultured and refined industry than that which labored at Hampton with him this summer. The resources of the school were taxed to their utmost, there being present 455 teachers from every section of the country. He is enthusiastic over the flattering results achieved, and gives unlimited credit to Major R. R. Moton and Captain Allen Washington for the splendid executive and managerial skill displayed by them throughout the entire term.

Questioned as to the candidacy for the local supervisors, Dr. Evans stated that he was not a candidate in the sense of seeking the position, and had not filed any application. The salary was somewhat in excess of the principalship he now holds at the Armstrong Manual Training School, and human nature would impel him to accept if a tender of the place was made. His heart is in educational life, and whether called to the supervisorship or continued where he is, he will throw into his duties all the energy and zeal that his physical and mental powers permit. Dr. Evans' stand is a manly one, and we think he is correct in leaving the matter to the discretion of the Board of Education.

The colored citizens of Alabama will meet Thursday, August 14th, for the purpose of forming a State Suffrage Association and to raise funds for the purpose of making and prosecuting a case in the courts of Alabama, and elsewhere if necessary, to test the constitutionality of the suffrage provisions of the new constitution. Already, two cases are pending before the city court of Montgomery, and a favorable decision in these cases will operate in the interest of all the colored people in the State—these being test cases. The call is headed by Bishop J. W. Alstork.